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## Welcome 2005-2006 Women's Law Advocates !!!

We are pleased to introduce the new class of Women's Law and Public Policy Fellows and Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows. Once again, the group this year is comprised of accomplished and talented women's rights advocates who were selected from a highly competitive pool of very gifted applicants.

**Mushahida Adhikari** (LAWA Fellow - South Africa) Mushahida earned her LL.B. from the University of Cape Town in South Africa and completed a clerkship with the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in Cape Town. She then practised in both the Pretoria and Johannesburg offices of the LRC, dealing with issues related to non-profit organizations, women's rights, land reform and refugee rights. She represented women in applications for domestic violence protection orders and child maintenance orders, and monitored prosecutions in gender-based violence matters to protect the victims' interests. Mushahida has also developed legislation to address trafficking in women and children in South Africa. As one of the LAWA Fellows, Mushahida will spend the first part of her Fellowship attaining an LL.M. degree at Georgetown University Law Center. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Overbrook Foundation** and the **Kaiser Family Foundation**.

**Beth Burkstrand-Reid** (U.S. Fellow) Beth comes to WLPPFP from Crowell & Moring LLP, where she provided *pro bono* legal assistance to national women's organizations and Members of Congress on numerous issues related to women. In 2002, Beth received her law degree *summa cum laude* from American University's Washington College of Law. During law school, Beth represented clients as a student attorney in the Women & the Law Clinic, and was an editor for the *American University Law Review*. After graduating, Beth clerked for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, where she specialized in *pro se* prisoner-related civil

actions and criminal litigation, including a capital case. She is married to Brian, an at-home dad and journalist, and mom to Clio, 3-1/2, both of whom proudly marched with her at the March for Women's Lives in April 2004. For her Fellowship year, Beth will continue to pursue her strong commitment to women's reproductive rights with the Litigation Department of **Planned Parenthood Federation of America**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Robert Sterling Clark Foundation** and the **Huber Foundation**.

**Janel George** (U.S. Fellow) Janel is a 2005 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Law. Prior to law school she worked as an advocate for victims of domestic violence in the Dekalb County Solicitor General's Office. During law school, she represented incarcerated clients in the Family Law Restorative Justice Project. She was a member of the Public Interest Law Foundation and a Managing Editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*. Janel is a recipient of the Foley and Lardner Minority Scholarship as well as a scholarship from the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers. In addition, the Christine Ebert Memorial Scholarship and a grant from the Children's Justice Project enabled her to intern at the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., where she researched state subsidized guardianship programs and the impact of domestic violence on children. For her Fellowship year, Janel is working with the **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Moriah Fund**.

**Theresa Keeley** (U.S. Fellow) Terri graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Colgate University in 1998. She then received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to investigate how governments restrict their citizens' personal freedoms in Poland and Northern Ireland. In 2004, Terri graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. While at Penn, she received two Edward V. Sparer Fellowships to work at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and at Community Legal Services in their housing division. Terri was actively involved at Penn, serving as president of the student body and a legal writing fellow. After law school, Terri clerked for the Honorable Deborah T. Poritz, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Her publications include "An Implied Warranty of Freedom from Sexual Harassment: The Solution for Harassed Tenants Where Fair Housing Act has Failed" and "Good Moral Character: Already an Unconstitutionally Vague Concept and Now Putting Bar Applicants in a Post 9/11 World on an Ele-

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New Fellows on Retreat in West Virginia

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vated Threat Level.” For her Fellowship year, Terri will be working at the **National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Fannie Mae Foundation**.

**Sindile Kubheka** (LAWA Fellow - Swaziland) After earning her law degree from the University of Swaziland, Sindile joined the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), where she served as a child counselor to survivors of sexual abuse and provided legal advice to victims of domestic violence. Sindile also established an after-school care center for children inspired by a SWAGAA-sponsored study. Leading a team of 30 volunteers, Sindile ensured that the center provided child survivors of sexual abuse and other violence with a safe space and counseling support. In addition, she served on the steering committee for SWAGAA’s Gender Consortium, through which she organized the annual “International Sixteen Days of Activism” and helped draft Swaziland’s National Gender Policy. Prior to her LAWA Fellowship, Sindile served as Acting Chief Executive Director and Director of Personnel for Swaziland Skills Centers, an organization that runs three training institutions providing basic vocational skills to young people with minimal formal education. For the first part of her LAWA Fellowship, Sindile will be completing her LL.M. degree at the Georgetown University Law Center. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**.

**Elizabeth Liu** (U.S. Fellow) Elizabeth comes to WLPPFP from NARAL Pro-Choice America, where she was a Staff Attorney in the Legal and Policy Research Department. Previously, Elizabeth was an associate with Steptoe & Johnson LLP, specializing in ERISA law. Elizabeth is currently President of Board of Directors of the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project in Washington, D.C. She has also served on the boards of the D.C. chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and of the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership. While at Harvard Law School, Elizabeth was on the Board of Directors of the Women's Law Association, and was active in a grassroots advocacy and organizing project for low-income women in Cambridge, MA. She also worked as a legal intern with the National Organization for Women, where she focused on hate crimes legislation. Elizabeth spent a year as an Americorps' VISTA at a children's rights project before entering law school. She is the new Clinical Teaching Fellow for **Georgetown University Law Center's Domestic Violence Clinic**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Georgetown University Law Center** and the **Washington, D.C. Women's Bar Association Foundation**.

**Christie Love** (U.S. Fellow) Christie received her law degree from Columbia Law School in 2005. She was awarded a Human Rights Internship for both of her summers in law school, working with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) and the Youth Law Center. At SDVLP, Christie represented clients in the domestic violence and guardianship clinics, as well as undocumented children in the foster care system. She continued her work with children through the Child Advocacy Clinic at Columbia. Christie was a staff member of the *Human Rights Law Review* and will have a note published in the spring issue of the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law* entitled “Not in Our Country: A Critique of United States’

Welfare Law through the Lens of China’s One Child Law.” She also interned with the ACLU Women’s Rights Project and Planned Parenthood of New York City. Prior to law school, Christie worked as a case manager in a long-term residential facility for homeless women in San Diego, California. Christie is placed at the **National Women’s Law Center** for her Fellowship year. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Charles H. Revson Foundation**.

**Bongekile Nxumalo** (LAWA Fellow) Bongekile obtained her B.A. in Law and her LL.B. from the University of Swaziland. She has served as a volunteer with Lawyers for Human Rights, where she informed people in rural communities as well as professional groups about Swaziland’s draft constitution. Additionally, Bongekile volunteered for the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), where she provided services to survivors of violence, mainly woman and children. Volunteering for SWAGAA inspired her dissertation on *Laus on Sexual Offences and the Criminal Justice System in Swaziland*. Upon completing her law degree, Bongekile worked as the legal officer for SWAGAA, providing civic education programs for women’s support groups in rural communities, and lobbying to reform discriminatory laws inconsistent with the international human rights conventions ratified by Swaziland. She also worked with the Attorney General’s office to draft a "Sexual Offenses and Abuse Bill." Furthermore, Bongekile compiled a shadow report on the Convention on the Rights of Children. Her work also involved conducting research on the connection between violence and HIV/AIDS. Like Mushahida and Sindile, Bongekile will spend the first part of her LAWA Fellowship completing her LL.M. degree at Georgetown University Law Center. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**.



LAWA Fellows at Foundations of U.S. Law Soiree

**Liza Zamd** (U.S. Fellow) Liza graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2004, where she was active in the Women Law Students Association, serving as its Public Service Co-Chair and then as its Co-President. Liza also participated in Michigan’s Clinical Law Program for three semesters, representing indigent clients. During her summers, Liza worked at the National Housing Law Project in Oakland, California, and at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Before law school Liza worked as a Section 8 housing specialist at the American Red Cross in New York City, and then later with ACCION New York, a non-profit micro-lending organization serving minority and women clients who traditionally have little access to credit. Liza will spend her Fellowship year working at the **National Partnership for Woman and Families**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Charles H. Revson Foundation**.

Please join WLPPFP in welcoming these terrific advocates!!!!

### Welcome Catherine French!

WLPPFP warmly welcomes our new Research Assistant, Catherine French, who is a 3L at Georgetown University Law Center.



# Linda Greenhouse Speaks at the Annual Luncheon

By Zinta Saulkahn, former WLPPFP Program Director  
 Excerpted and reprinted with permission from the Georgetown Law Weekly.

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) held its annual luncheon to welcome the new Women's Law Fellows on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of Gewirz at noon on Monday, Sept. 26. Almost 130 people attended the event, including alumni of the program; Georgetown faculty, staff and students; current and former WLPPFP staff members; leaders of many of the women's rights organizations who have hosted fellows and other program supporters. Several Georgetown students volunteered at the event, including WLPPFP Research Assistant Catherine French, 3L.

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program began in 1983 to provide opportunities for law graduates to advance women's rights by placing them with leading public interest organizations in D.C. In 1993, the organization founded the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) program in order to train women's rights lawyers from Africa committed to advancing the status of women and girls upon return to their countries. LAWA fellows come to Georgetown to earn their LL.M. degrees in international women's human rights and participate in a three-month work placement. Over 200 women and men have served at over 65 organizations as part of the U.S. and LAWA programs, with participants coming from Botswana, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Housed here at the Law Center, WLPPFP operates as an independent 501(c)(3) organization, but receives administrative support from Georgetown. Former Georgetown Dean Judith Areen and Professor Wendy Webster Williams sit on the board of directors, along with D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and several other national leading women's rights advocates.

Julia Ernst welcomed the 23<sup>rd</sup> WLPPFP class and introduced herself as the new Executive Director, replacing Johanna Bond, who stepped down in January. Prior to joining WLPPFP, Ernst worked as director of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the office of U.S. Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter. She also teaches an international women's human rights course here at the Law Center. Deborah Epstein, Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Public Interest and Community Service Programs, provided a welcome from Georgetown. Dean Epstein oversees Georgetown's 13 clinics, including the Domestic Violence Clinic, which is one of WLPPFP's placement organizations. Dean Epstein is an alumna of the program, and along with Visiting Associate Professor

Laurie Kohn (also in attendance), she spent her fellowship year as a teaching fellow in the Clinic, where she now serves as director, with Prof. Kohn as the Assistant Director. Professor and WLPPFP board member Wendy Williams then warmly introduced the incoming fellowship class, highlighting the six U.S. and three LAWA fellows' extensive experience in women's rights advocacy and scholarship.

Board member and National Women's Law Center co-president Marcia Greenberger introduced the luncheon's keynote speaker, Supreme Court Correspondent for the *New York Times* since 1978, Linda Greenhouse. In 1998, Greenhouse was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for outstanding coverage of the Supreme Court. Georgetown awarded Greenhouse an honorary degree last year. Greenhouse congratulated the new group of fellows, saying that she was "relieved to know the spirit of feminism is still alive." She made references to her widely-acclaimed biography, *Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey*, which was published in May, the timely theme of which she described as "justices in change." Speaking about the recent nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice to the Supreme Court, Greenhouse predicted



Linda Greenhouse

that because of his experience, the learning curve would not be as steep as it was for some of the other justices. She added, "his commute from Chevy Chase will be about four or five blocks longer—but I guess he'll get a good parking space." In closing, Greenhouse said that she did not view Roberts as a "judge with an agenda," but noted that she was an interested observer and some of the women's rights leaders in the room might disagree.

Micah Thorner, 2E, said, "It was amazing to hear about what's being done in areas of law affecting women's rights and to get an idea of what to expect with a new chief justice on the U.S. Supreme Court." Executive Director Julia Ernst said about the turnout: "The tremendous support from the Law Center and the Washington, D.C. legal community for our Women's Law Fellows serves as a testament to the fellows' incredibly inspiring achievements promoting women's rights. They are truly some of the most dedicated and talented people I have ever met." Prof. Wendy Williams agreed, adding, "I

love introducing the new fellows each fall at the welcome luncheon. I look at them and in my mind's eye I can see all the way back to the beginning of the program, 23 years of exceptional young lawyers, preparing to make the world a better place for women and girls. Former fellows are teaching law and running clinics, becoming judges, heading public interest law firms and other NGOs, running for office, heading up government agencies and working internationally for women's human rights. Doing it all!"

## **WLPPFP extends our sincerest thanks to our Annual Luncheon Sponsors and Major Supporters!!!**

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## Voices of African Women: Women's Rights in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania

**Johanna Bond ('98-'99)**, former WLPPFP Executive Director, edited a new book entitled *Voices of African Women: Women's Rights in Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania*. The volume is comprised of essays based on the graduate papers of many LAWA alumnae, all of whom are accomplished women's rights lawyers. As the Carolina Academic Press describes, "This book offers a glimpse into the lives of women in Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania; it describes – in their own words – the challenges these activists face in implementing human rights norms at the local and national levels." *Voices of African Women* is divided into five sections addressing women's right to participate in public life; violence against women; women's rights within the family; reproductive health, women's subordination, and HIV/AIDS; and women's economic empowerment. LAWA contributors include: Angela Dwamena-Aboagye, Fitnat N-A. Adjetey, Hadija Ally, Jacqueline Asimmwe, Dora Kanabahita

Byamukama, Beatrice Akua Abrekna Duncan, Hilary Amesika Gbedemah, Sheila N.Y. Gyimah, Scolastica Jullu, Naome Kambanda, Mande Limbu, Sarah B. Lubega, Jane Magigita, Monica E. Magoke-Mhoja, Salma Maulidi, Harriet Diana Musoke, Regina Lule Mutyaba, Emma Ssali Namuli, Evelyn Nassuna, Margaret C. Oguli Oumo, Gloria Ofori-Abodu, Regina M. Rweyemamu, Bernice Sam, Maria Tungaraza, and Kulsum Wakabi, as well as U.S. alum Anne Daugherty Leiter and former WLPPFP Program Assistant Vanessa Brocato. The book is a must-read, especially for WLPPFP and LAWA alums, many of whom have first-hand knowledge of the issues and who know the women who authored these incredible essays. For more information on the book please visit <http://www.cap-press.com/>. Congratulations, Johanna and our LAWA alums, on this wonderful achievement!

### More Fellowship Events

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg invited the 2004-2005 Fellows and staff to the U.S. Supreme Court to discuss women and the law, along with the two women South African Constitutional Court Justices, Hon. Yvonne Mokgoro and Hon. Kate O'Regan and Board Members Wendy Williams and Mary Hartnett.

- In May, the 2004-05 Fellows and staff were invited to have lunch on Capitol Hill with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, who also serves as Chair of the WLPPFP Board of Directors. The Congresswoman gave the group a tour of her impressive office, followed by lunch in the Members' Dining Room. Board Member Wendy Williams also joined the event.



Congresswoman Norton with Fellows

- In July, the 2004-2005 Fellows and staff welcomed the new LAWA Fellows from Africa at a BBQ at the home of Executive Director Julia Ernst.

- The senior LAWAs presented their graduate papers on women's rights in southern Africa to a packed audience at the Georgetown University Law Center in August.



Senior LAWA Panel

- Also in August, Board Members Wendy Williams and Mary Hartnett, along with former Executive Director Johanna Bond and the WLPPFP staff, bid farewell to the 2004-2005 Fellows at a celebration at Wendy's home.

- In September, Board Members Judy Areen and Wendy Williams delighted the incoming 2005-2006 Fellows with stories from the women's movement at a welcome dinner hosted by Judy.

- CONGRATULATIONS to Board Member Judy Lichtman, who received the prestigious Margaret Brent Award from the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, sharing the honor with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

### Pro Bono Partnerships

Covington & Burling is nearing completion of a *pro bono* project supporting the work of former LAWA Fellow, Jamesina King of Sierra Leone. Covington attorneys met Jamesina and her class of 2001-02 Fellows, all newly arrived in DC, over lunch during the summer of 2001. Three years later, having returned to Freetown, Jamesina found herself in need of *pro bono* assistance. She was preparing a report to submit to the Sierra Leone government on behalf of a Sierra Leone human rights organization called LAWYERS (Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equality Rights and Social Justice) on the treatment of female prisoners by the Sierra Leone justice system. Jamesina asked Covington to research applicable international human rights standards and reform measures implemented by other countries and to consider several other issues specifically in relation to women. Covington partner Kelly Vance supervised the work of Erica Price, Meera Shah, Harris Bor and Julie Pender (all London office) and Sarah Cunningham (San Francisco office) on this critical initiative.

Covington's team agrees that the potential impact of their work on Jamesina's incarcerated clients has made this *pro bono* project particularly rewarding. "Our research demonstrates that prison reform has been successfully implemented in other countries, and can be successfully implemented again," says Sarah. "My great hope is that armed with our research, Jamesina's organization will be successful in advancing the prison reform movement in Sierra Leone."

Covington's Women's Forum is collaborating with WLPPFP to develop new *pro bono* opportunities with Program alums, and sponsored WLPPFP's recent Annual Luncheon. WLPPFP is also looking into the possibility of establishing *pro bono* partnerships with additional law firms, such as DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary.

## Alum Corner

- **Justine Andronici** ('02-'03) relocated to Boston, where she works as a consultant on class action employment discrimination cases and feminist policy, advocacy, and legal issues with public interest organizations. She recently appeared on MSNBC's Tucker Carlson Show to discuss John Roberts' nomination of to the Supreme Court.
- **Pamela Coukos** ('95-'96) enrolled at UC Berkeley this fall as a Ph.D. candidate in the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, to research how the legal system responds to the claims of systemic race and gender discrimination in large institutions.
- **Deborah Epstein** ('90-'91) was named Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Public Interest & Community Service Programs at the Georgetown University Law Center. She will also continue to serve as Co-Director of the Domestic Violence Clinic along with **Laurie Kohn** ('98-'99).
- **Liliana Garces** ('98-'99) is in the doctoral program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she is focusing on diversity in higher education.
- **Angela Hooton** ('03-'04) with the National Latina Institute For Reproductive Health and **Courtney Chappell** ('04-'05) with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum authored an article published in *Women's E-News* entitled "Women of Color Alarmed by Chief Justice Nominee."
- **Cindy Hounsell** ('89-'90), Executive Director of the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), spoke at a Congressional briefing on women's health benefits and retirement planning.
- **Suzanne Jackson** ('88-'89), Professor at George Washington University Law School, testified before a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on trafficking in women through the "mail-order bride" industry.
- **Jennifer Joni** ('03-'04) joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) in Pretoria, South Africa, where she coordinates human rights training for UN staff, government officials, law enforcement officials, lawyers and judges.
- **Keneilwe Lekoba** ('02-'03) teaches law at the University of Botswana, is operating a law firm focusing on women's rights, and established an NGO to monitor implementation of international human rights conventions. The government of Botswana nominated her to serve on a team drafting its new Domestic Violence Policy.
- **Hope Lewis** ('86-'87) was appointed Faculty Director of the Northeastern University School of Law Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, and co-edited a textbook: *Human Rights and the Global Marketplace: Economic, Social, and Cultural Dimensions*.
- **Molly McNulty** ('88-'89) will give a presentation on child health at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference this Fall, and is writing a textbook entitled *Maternal and Child Health: Law, Policy Making, and Advocacy*.
- **Christine Nardi** ('99-'00) joined the Women's Legal Group of Tucker Griffin Barnes and recently sponsored a successful fundraiser for NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia.
- **Gloria Ofori-Boadu** ('95-'96) was nominated for the Millennium Excellence Award for her work on women's economic empowerment in Ghana as President of the Women Assistance and Business Association and Executive Director of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-Ghana.
- **Regina Rweyemamu** ('95-'96) was appointed as a Justice on the High Court of Tanzania. She had previously served as Labour Commissioner, where she was involved in the Labour Law Reform initiative, culminating in the Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2004, which makes employment discrimination unlawful on several grounds including sex.

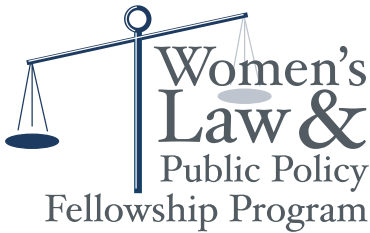
## Farewell

It's always hard to say "Goodbye" to the outgoing Fellows, but it is wonderful to know they are all headed into terrific career paths promoting women's rights:

- **Courtney Chappell** continues to work at the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), where she now serves as Policy Director and supervises one of our 2005-2006 Fellows, Janel George.
- **Tamar Ezer** entered her second year as the Georgetown University Law Center's International Women's Human Rights Clinical Teaching Fellow.
- After a trip to Japan, **Aya Fujimura-Fanselow** began working with the Center for Reproductive Rights' International Legal Program in New York.
- **Jennifer Hunter** is remaining in Washington, D.C., where she spent her first post-Fellowship months continuing to work for the National Women's Law Center on judicial nominations. Jenny recently accepted a position as an Associate for Bredhoff & Kaiser, where she will work on union-side labor law.
- **Jennifer Marston** returned to the West Coast (after an exciting trip to Ireland!) and accepted a position for the Portland, Oregon firm of Goldberg Mechanic Stuart & Gibson, where she is working on various employment discrimination matters, including discharge grievances, unfair labor practice charges to the NLRB, and other labor-related litigation.
- **Jane Stoever** as moved into her second year as the Senior Domestic Violence Clinic Teaching Fellow and Staff Attorney at Georgetown University Law Center. In this capacity, she will work closely with one of our 2005-2006 Fellows, Elizabeth Liu in the Domestic Violence Clinic.

## Thank you to 2005-06 Mentors!

Everyone who has been fortunate enough to have had a good mentor knows how valuable it is for young professionals just beginning to grapple with issues of deciding on career paths, forging strong professional connections, balancing work/family issues, etc. Each year we are lucky to have WLPPFP alums in the D.C. area volunteer to mentor the incoming Fellows. This year we want to extend our sincere appreciation to the following alums who have volunteered to serve as mentors to the 2005-06 Fellowship class: **Courtney Chappell** ('04-'05), **Sarah Craven** ('92-'93), **Frances Cook** ('98-'99), **Amy Fettig** ('01-'02), **Julye Fulcher** ('95-'96), **Sinsi Hernandez-Cancio** ('95-'96), **Jenny Hunter** ('04-'05), **Lisaly Jacobs** ('90-'91), **Jane Stoever** ('04-'05), **Cynthia Totten** ('99-'00), **Christine Webber** ('93-'94). Thanks for your generous commitment!



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- Judith L. Lichtman, *Senior Advisor and Former President, National Partnership for Women and Families*
- Wendy Webster Williams, *Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center*

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